

## Henryk Mikolaj Górecki



Henryk Mikolaj Gorecki Photo: © Copyright Gerry Hurkmans

### An introduction to Góreckis music by Adrian Thomas

Henryk Mikolaj Górecki belongs to the generation of Polish composers (which includes his exact contemporary Penderecki) that found itself poised to take full advantage of the post-Stalin thaw of the mid-1950s. A plethora of youthful works from 1955-59 saw the composer ranging freely from the exuberant and dynamic vitality of the *Songs of Joy and Rhythm* op.7 (1956, rev.1960) through to experimental scores owing more to Webern and Boulez. Henceforth, the evolution of Góreckis musical language has been a consistent search for the most truthful expression of his musical roots.

It quickly becomes apparent that Górecki holds Polands musical past, its church and its folk culture in unwavering awe; for him they are the unchallengeable rock on which both his and his countrys identity and true heritage are securely founded. From the combusive, flamboyant energy of the orchestral *Scontri (Collisions)* op.17 (1960) to the reflective lamentations of his best-known work, the *Third Symphony* op.36 (1976) and on to his most recent chamber works such as the string quartet *Already it is Dusk* op.62 (1988) and his piece written in memoriam Michael Vyner, *Good Night* (1990), it is this deeply-felt awareness of his roots that gives his music a directness and emotional impact all its own.

In creating this particular world, Górecki calls upon a number of sources. The folk and religious elements are both abstract (immediate granitic textures, large-scale canvasses, slow tempi) and specific (folk songs and texts mainly from his beloved Tatra mountains, plus modal hymnody and references to old Polish music). In times past these were often treated beyond recognition, but in the 1970s Górecki came to confide in their innate simplicity and let them stand for themselves, as in his recent folksong settings and Marian hymns. Occasionally he will also make passing reference to phrases or harmonic progressions from composers with whom he feels a special closeness, such as Beethoven, Chopin or Szymanowski. Such allusions or quotations are an integral part of the musical flow, of the personal vision that has marked out Góreckis unique voice from that of his contemporaries and compatriots.

His restrained approach to his material should not, however, be confused with the minimal aesthetics of certain Western European or American composers. It is a quite specifically Eastern European phenomenon (one he shares in some measure with the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt) which Górecki has refined to a remarkable degree. Long regarded in his native Poland as a composer of uncommon individuality, Górecki is now beginning to be acknowledged in the West as a major figure of considerable stature whose music transcends cultural and political boundaries.

© Adrian Thomas, 1990

## FULL ORCHESTRA

### Canticum Graduum op. 27

**1969** 12 min

for orchestra

4.0.4.4sax.4-8.4.4.0-strings (24.0.8.8.8)

**World Premiere: 11 Dec 1969**

Dusseldorf, Germany

West German Radio Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Michael Gielen

Availability: World (excluding Poland, Albania, Bulgaria, China, Yugoslavia, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam, Rumania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and former Soviet Union)

### Old Polish Music op. 24

**1969** 23 min

for brass and strings

5hn.4tpt.4trbn-strings (min.8.8.8.8.8)

9790060094316 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1240**

**World Premiere: 24 Sep 1969**

Warsaw, Poland

National Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Andrzej Markowski

Availability: World (excluding Poland, Albania, Bulgaria, China, Yugoslavia, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam, Rumania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and former Soviet Union)

### Refrain op. 21

**1965** 17 min

for orchestra

0.4.4.4-4.4.4.0-timp(3).perc(1):tam-t-strings

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

FULL ORCHESTRA 2

### Scontri op. 17

Collisions

**1960** 17 min

for orchestra

2.2picc.0.2.Ebcl.bcl.2.2dbn-4.4.3.1-perc(8)-2pft-2harps-strings

(30.0.12.12.8)

perc1:2bongos/glsp/2tam-t

perc2:v.large BD/3Chin.bl/2susp.cym

perc3:2timbales/4susp.horseshoes/2susp.cym

perc4:2tom-t/4cowbellsperc5:2tom-t/3horseshoes

perc6:2SD/vib/2susp.cym

perc7:BD/5tpl.bl/2susp.cym

perc8:2SD/marimbaphone/2gongs

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

### Symphony No.1 '1959' op. 14

**1959** 20 min

for string orchestra and percussion

timp.perc(7):3SD without snares;SD;TD;3susp.cym;xyl;marimbaphone;vib-hpd-harp-strings(16.16.14.12.10)

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

### Three Dances op. 34

**1973** 12 min

for orchestra

2(II=picc).2.2.2-3.4.3.1-timp(2)-strings

**World Premiere: 24 Nov 1973**

Rybnik, Poland

Rybnik Philharmonic Symphony

Conductor: Antoni Szafranek

Availability: World (Sync rights only)

FULL ORCHESTRA 2

## CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

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### **Choros I op. 20**

**1964** 18 min

for strings

strings (24.0.12.12.8)

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**World Premiere: 22 Sep 1964**

Warsaw, Poland

Silesian State Philharmonic Orchestra

Conductor: Karol Stryja

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Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

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### **Quasi una fantasia op. 78**

**1990/91 arr.2002** 40 min

Version for large string orchestra

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**World premiere of version: 23 Oct 2002**

Auditorio Nacional, Madrid, Spain

Polish Radio National Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Gabriel Chmura

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### **Three Pieces in Old Style**

**1963** 10 min

for string orchestra

strings (min: 12.10.8.6.4)

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**World Premiere: 30 Apr 1964**

Warsaw, Poland

Ensemble 'Con moto ma cantabile'

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Availability: World (Sync rights only)

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## SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) AND ORCHESTRA

### Concerto-Cantata

**1992** 22 min

for flute and orchestra

4(2=picc).4.4.4-6.4.3.1-perc cyms.BD-harp-strings(16-18.14-16.12-14.

10-12.8-10)

solo flute also plays alto flute

**World Premiere: 28 Nov 1992**

Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Carol Wincenc, flute; Radio Philharmonic Orchestra

Conductor: Eri Klas

### Harpichord Concerto op. 40

**1980** 9 min

for harpsichord (or piano) and string orchestra

if harpsichord solo: strings (6.6.4.4.2)

if piano solo: strings (8.8.6.6.4)

**World Premiere: 02 Mar 1980**

Katowice, Poland

Elzbieta Chojnacka, harpsichord; Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Stanislaw Wislocki

Availability: World (Sync rights only)

### Songs of Joy and Rhythm op. 7

(Piesni o Radosci i Rytmie)

**1956, rev. 1959** 14 min

for 2 pianos and chamber orchestra

1.picc.0.I.I-0.I.I.0-timp.perc(3);SD without snares/SD with snares/

xyl-cel-2pft-strings(6.6.6.6.0)

Availability: World (excluding Poland, Albania, Bulgaria, China, Yugoslavia, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam, Rumania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and former Soviet Union)

## VOICE(S) AND ORCHESTRA

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### **Symphony No.3 'Symphony of Sorrowful Songs' op. 36**

Symfonia piesni zalosnych

**1976**

54 min

for soprano solo and large orchestra

Text: Old Polish religious and folk texts, trans. in French by Jerzy Lisowski and in German by Wilhelm Szewczyk (P)

4(III,IV=picc).0.4.2.2dbn-4.0.4.0-harp-pft-strings(16.16.12.12.8)

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**World Premiere: 04 Apr 1977**

Royan, France

Stefania Woytowicz, soprano; Symphony Orchestra of South German Radio  
Baden-Baden

Conductor: Ernest Bour

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

## CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

### Ad Matrem op. 29

(Do Matki)

1971

10 min

for soprano solo, mixed choir, and orchestra

Text: the composer (L)

4(III,IV=picc).4.4.4(III,IV=dbn)-4.4.4.0-timp(2).perc(2):SD/v.large  
BD-harp-pft-strings

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

### Beatus Vir op. 38

1979

35 min

Psalm for baritone solo, mixed choir, and large orchestra

Text: Psalms 142 (verses 1,6-8,10), 30 (verses 15-16), 37 (verse 23), 66 (verse 7), 33 (verse 9) (L)

4.4.4.4(III,IV=dbn)-4.4.4.4\*-perc(2):glsp;t.bells-2 harps-  
pft(4hands)-strings

\*if four tubas are not available, the 1st and 2nd tuba parts may be  
played by two (additional) trombones

World Premiere: 09 Jun 1979

Krakow, Poland

Jerzy Mechlinski; Krakow Philharmonic Orchestra & Chorus

Conductor: HM Gorecki

Availability: World (Sync rights only)

### Symphony No.2 'Copernican' op. 31

1972

35 min

for soprano, baritone, mixed choir, and large orchestra

Text: Psalm 145 (v.6), psalm 135 (verses 7-9), and excerpt from Book I "De  
revolutionibus orbium coelestium" by Nicolaus Copernicus (L)

4(III,IV=picc).4.4(IV=bcl).4(III,IV=dbn)-4.4.4.1-timp(3).perc(3):  
BD/small SD/large tam-t;large BD/medium SD;v.large BD/large SD/  
v.large tam.t-harp-pft(4hands)-strings(36.0.12.12.12)

World Premiere: 22 Jun 1973

Warsaw, Poland

Stefania Woytowicz, sop / Andrzej Hiolski, bar; National Philharmonic Symphony

Orchestra and chorus

Conductor: Andrzej Markowski

Availability: World (Sync rights only)

## ENSEMBLE AND CHAMBER WITHOUT VOICE(S)

### ...songs are sung op. 67

#### String Quartet No.3

1995/2005 56 min

for string quartet

9790060117923 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1408**

9790060119750 **String Quartet (parts)**

**World Premiere: 15 Oct 2005**

Father Kolbe Catholic Church, Bielsko-Biala, Poland

Kronos Quartet

### Already it is Dusk op. 62

#### String Quartet No.1

1988 16 min

for string quartet

9790060090172 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1192**

9790060090189 **(Parts)**

**World Premiere: 21 Jan 1989**

Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States

Kronos Quartet

### Aria op. 59

1987 15 min

for tuba, piano, tam-tam and bass drum

tuba-perc:(1)tam-t/BD-pft

9790060094330 **Tuba, Piano, Tam-Tam, Drum**

**World Premiere: 30 May 1991**

Ijsbreker, Amsterdam, Netherlands

The Barton Workshop

### Concerto for five instruments and string quartet op. 11

1957 10 min

fl.cl-tpt-xyln.mandolin-2vln.vla.vlc

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

### Genesis I: Elementi op. 19

1962 13 min

for string trio

vl.vla.vlc

**World Premiere: 29 May 1962**

Krakow, Poland

Antoni Feliks, vla/Edward Wiertelosz, vlc

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

### Genesis II: Canti Strumentali op. 19

1962 8 min

for 15 players

picc.fl-tpt-mandolin-guitar-piano(4hands)-perc(2):5wdbl/2gongs/  
BD/v.large tam-t;4bongos/2large gongs/v.large BD/tam-t-3vln.3vla

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

### Kleines Requiem fur eine Polka op. 66

1993 25 min

for piano and 13 instruments

1.1.1.1-1.1.1.0-perc:t.bells-pft-strings(1.1.1.1.1)

9790060096112 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 1272**

**World Premiere: 12 Jun 1993**

Wang Zaal, Beurs van Berlage, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Schoenberg Ensemble

Conductor: Reinbert de Leeuw

### Musiquette 2 op. 23

1967 7 min

for 4 trumpets, 4 trombones, 2 pianos and percussion

perc(5):cym/tam-t;susp.cym/large BD;susp.cym/large tam-t;susp.cym/  
v.large BD:large cym/v.large tam-t  
4 trumpets, 4 trombones, 2 pft

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

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**Musiquette 3 op. 25****1967** 14 min

for violas

(the work can be played by any multiple of the minimum number of three violas)

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

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**Musiquette 4 op. 28****Trombone Concerto**

Muzyczka IV

**1970** 9 min

for clarinet, trombone, cello and piano

trombone, clarinet, cello and piano

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**World Premiere: 15 Apr 1970**

Vienna, Austria

Edward Borowiak, trbn/Witold Galazka, vlc/Czeslaw Palkowski, cl/Zygmunt Krauze, pft

Availability: World (excluding Poland, Albania, Bulgaria, China, Yugoslavia, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam, Rumania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and former Soviet Union)

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**Quartettino op. 5****1956** 8 min

for 2 flutes, oboe, and violin

two flutes, oboe and violin

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

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**Quasi una fantasia op. 64****String Quartet No.2****1990/91** 40 min

for string quartet

9790060094880 **Pocket or Study Score**9790060094897 **(Parts)**

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**World Premiere: 27 Oct 1991**

Severance Hall, Cleveland, Ohio, United States

Kronos Quartet

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**Recitatives and Ariosos 'Lerchenmusik' op. 53****1984-85** 40 min

for clarinet, cello, and piano

cl.pft.vlc

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**World premiere incomplete: 28 Jul 1984**

Lerchenborg Festival, Denmark

Danish Trio: Jens Schou, cl/Svend Winslov, vlc/Rosalind Bevan, pft

Availability: World (Sync rights only)

## ENSEMBLE AND CHAMBER WITH VOICE(S)

### **Genesis III: Monodramma op. 19**

**1963** 10 min

for soprano, metal percussion, and 6 double basses

Text: the composer

perc(13):12blocks/8cyms/4gongs/12tgl/8susp.cym/4tam-t/t.bells-6db

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

### **Good Night op. 63**

Dobra Noc

**1990** 30 min

for soprano, alto flute, piano and 3 tam-tams

Text: from Shakespeare's Hamlet (E)

soprano, alto flute, piano, 3 tam-tams molto profondo (molto basso)

9790060094354 **Soprano, Alto Flute, 3 Tam-Tams, Piano**

**World premiere incomplete: 06 May 1990**

Royal Opera House, London, United Kingdom

Margaret Field, soprano; London Sinfonietta

Availability: World (excluding Poland, Albania, Bulgaria, China, Yugoslavia, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam, Rumania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and former Soviet Union)

### **Monologhi op. 16**

**1960** 17 min

for soprano and three groups of instruments

Text: Henryk Mikolaj Gorecki (P)

I: 2 harps-perc:glsp.vib.marimbaphone

II: perc(3):6susp.cym

III:perc(2):3tam-t.3gongs

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

**PIANO(S)**

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**Intermezzo**

**1990**

2 min 30 sec

Piano piece

**World Premiere: 03 Aug 1990**

Lerchenborg Festival, Denmark(7:30), Denmark  
Rosalind Bevan, pft

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**Piano Sonata No.1 op. 6**

**1956/84/90**

12 min

for piano

9790060111273 **Piano (Facsimile)**

9790060112454 **Piano**

**World premiere complete: 17 Mar 1991**

Helsinki, Finland

Paul Crossley, piano;

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## INSTRUMENTAL

### **Dla Jasiunia op. 79**

For Jasiunia

**2003**

3 min 55 sec

Three little pieces for violin and piano  
9790060119644 **Violin, Piano**

### **For You, Anne-Lill op. 58**

**1986-90**

12 min

for flute and piano

flute and piano

9790060094347 **Flute, Piano**

**World Premiere: 04 Aug 1990**

Lerchenborg Festival, Denmark (1pm), Denmark

Anne-Lill Ree, fl Ellen Refstrup, pft

### **Little Fantasia op. 73**

(Kleine Phantasie)

**1997**

13 min

for violin and piano

9790060108174 **Violin, Piano**

**World Premiere: 12 Oct 1997**

Hochschule/Musik&Theater, Hannover, Germany

Felicitas Hofmeister, Violin Rohan de Silva, piano

### **Three Little Pieces op. 37**

**1977**

3 min

for violin and piano

violin and piano

**World Premiere: 05 Jan 1978**

Katowice, Poland

Mikolaj Gorecki and Jadwiga Gorecka

Availability: World (excluding Poland, Albania, Bulgaria, China, Yugoslavia, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam, Rumania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and former Soviet Union)

### **Valentine Piece op. 70**

**1996**

4 min 30 sec

for flute solo and little bell

9790051591688 **Flute**

**World Premiere: 14 Feb 1996**

Merkin Concert Hall, New York, New York, United States

Carol Wincenc, fl

**VOCAL**

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**Blessed Raspberry Songs op. 43**

(Błogosławione Piosenki Malinowe)

**1980**

20 min

for voice and piano

Text: Cyprian Kamil Norwid

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**Three Fragments op. 69**

**1995-96**

10 min

for voice and piano

Text: Stanisław Wyspiański (P)

**World Premiere: 23 Feb 1996**

Zakopane, Poland, Poland

Wanda Warska (voice)

Henryk Mikołaj Gorecki (piano)

## CHORAL

### Amen op. 35

**1975** 8 min

for unaccompanied mixed choir

Text: in Latin

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

### Broad Waters op. 39

Szeroka Woda  
**1979** 16 min

Five folksongs for unaccompanied mixed choir

Text: Traditional (P)

mixed chorus

9790060096884 **SATB**

### Come, Holy Spirit op. 61

Przybadz, Duchu Swiety  
**1988** 12 min 30 sec

for mixed voices (SATB) a cappella

Text: Based on the sequence Veni Sancte Spiritus (P)

9790060119965 **Mixed Choir (Choral Score)**

**World Premiere: 11 Oct 1993**

Warsaw, Poland

Catholic Theological Academy Choir, Warsaw

Conductor: Kazimierz Szymonik

### Epitafium op. 12

**1958** 5 min

for mixed choir and instruments

Text: Julian Tuwim (P)

picc-Dtpt-perc(5):SD without snare;SD;small susp.cym;medium susp.cym/  
large susp.cym-vla

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

### Euntes Ibant et Flebant op. 32

**1972** 9 min

for unaccompanied mixed choir

Text: Psalm 125 (verse 6) and Psalm 94 (verse 6) (L)

**World Premiere: 31 Aug 1975**

Wroclaw, Poland

National Philharmonic Choir of Warsaw

Conductor: Andrzej Markowski

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

### Five Kurpian Songs op. 75

Piec Piesni Kurpiowskich  
**1999** 24 min

for mixed voices (SATB) a cappella

Text: Polish folk songs (P)

9790060119972 **SATB**

**World Premiere: 30 Mar 2003**

Polish Radio Concert Hall, Warsaw, Poland

Polish Radio Choir

Conductor: Wlodzimierz Siedlik

### Five Marian Songs op. 54

Piesni Maryjne  
**1985** 28 min

for mixed voices (SATB) a cappella

Text: Jan Siedlecki (P)

9790060119989 **SATB**

**World Premiere: 13 Nov 2005**

Krakow, Poland

Polish Radio Choir

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**Lobgesang op. 76**

(Hymn of Praise)

**2000**

9 min

for a cappella choir with glockenspiel

Text: the composer, after the Psalms (G)

chorus(SATB)-glsp

9790060113574 **(Choral Score)**

**World Premiere: 13 Aug 2000**

St Johanneskirche, Mainz, Germany

Figuralchor Mainz

Conductor: Stefan Weiler

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**Miserere op. 44**

**1981**

37 min

for unaccompanied mixed chorus

Text: (L)

9790060098703 **SSAA, TTBB**

**World Premiere: 10 Sep 1987**

Wloclawek, Poland

Krakow Philharmonic Chorus, members of Bydgoszcz 'Arion' Choir

Availability: World (Sync rights only)

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**My Vistula, grey Vistula op. 46**

Wislo moja, Wislo szara

**1981**

4 min

folksong for unaccompanied mixed choir

Text: Traditional (P)

Unaccompanied chorus

9790060096891 **SATB**

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**Na Aniol Panski op. 57**

The Angelus bells are tolling

**1986**

12 min

for chorus a cappella

Text: Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer (P)

S.A.T.B

9790060120398

**World Premiere: 05 May 2007**

Bazylika Jasnogórska, Czestochowie, Poland

Chór Polskiego Radia

Conductor: Wlodzimierz Siedlik

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**Pod Twoja Obrone op. 56**

Under Thy Protection

**1985**

8 min

for chorus a cappella

Text: traditional (P)

S.A.T.B

9790060120381 **(Full score)**

**World Premiere: 05 May 2007**

Bazylika Jasnogórska, Czestochowie, Poland

Chór Polskiego Radia

Conductor: Wlodzimierz Siedlik

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**Salve, sidus Polonorum op. 72**

**1997-2000**

25 min

Saint Adalbert Cantata for chorus and ensemble

Text: Liturgical (L)/the composer (P)

chorus(SATB)-perc:3tam-t/2t.bells/2glsp/BD-2pft-organ

9790060113581 **(Full score)**

9790060113703 **(Vocal Score)**

**World Premiere: 21 Jun 2000**

Garden Church, Hannover, Germany

Chorus and instrumental ensemble from The National Philharmonic, Warsaw

Conductor: Henryk Wojnarowski

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**The Song of Rodziny Katynskie op. 81**

(Piesn Rodzin Katynskich)

**2004**

5 min

for chorus a cappella

Text: Tadeusz Lutoborski (Polish)

S.A.T.B

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**World Premiere: 13 Nov 2005**

Krakow, Poland

Polish Radio Choir

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**Three Lullabies op. 49**

Drei Wiegenlieder

**1984, rev.1991**

10 min 30 sec

for mixed choir

Text: traditional (P)

SATB unaccompanied

9790060096907 **SATB**

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**World Premiere: 02 Aug 1991**

Lerchenborg Festival, Denmark, Denmark

Ars Nova

Conductor: Bo Holten

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**Totus Tuus op. 60**

**1987**

11 min

for unaccompanied mixed chorus

Text: Maria Boguslawska (L)

chorus a cappella

9790060082320 **SATB**

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**World Premiere: 19 Jul 1987**

Victory Square, Warsaw, Poland

Warsaw Academy of Catholic Theology Choir

Availability: World (excluding Poland, Albania, Bulgaria, China, Yugoslavia, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam, Rumania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and former Soviet Union)

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**Two Little Songs of Tuwim op. 33**

**1972**

4 min 30 sec

for a choir of 4 equal voices

Text: Julian Tuwim (P)

Availability: USA, Canada and Mexico

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**Two Marian Hymns**

**1986**

for solo voices a cappella